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Saturday, June 29, 2013

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Aruba receives for the first time an official scientific Health Monitor publication

Minister of Public Health, Richard Visser, just recently presented the very first Health Monitor to Aruba. This first Health Monitor comes in the form of an extensive publication replete with analyses of all the different aspects of the health of Aruba.

According to the Minister, the publication contains a great deal of information and data resulting from various investigations conducted during various years. The law re-



There a team registers and analyzes the data and prepares different charts, writes and compiles all the information so as to provide a view of the state of the health of Aruba.

According to the Minister, Aruba's the first country of the Dutch islands to have such a Health Monitor. He thanked those who worked so diligently on this project. There are two experts from Holland, in The Hague, who helped

set up the team and provided the structure for the Health Monitor. They worked to put the team together to be able to execute the project.

The Department of Public health worked two and a half years on this project.

Continued on pg 3

Mandela has shown 'great improvement': ex-wife Winnie



SOUTH AFRICA, Durban : African National Congress (ANC) supporters sing and dance during a vigil for ailing former South African President Nelson Mandela outside Durban City Hall on June 28, 2013. Mandela's ex-wife said today that the anti-apartheid icon's condition had improved in recent days, but he was still "unwell." AFP PHOTO

garding our Public Health requires us to produce a Health Monitor every 4 years.

The first chapter of the publication regards demographic data and information on the successive life style of our people, physical health, chronic diseases, infectious diseases and the health of our children.

According to the Minister, there is a great deal of information and the results of data of different investigation conducted over various years. The Public Health Law requires that Aruba produce a Health Monitor every four years. With the analyses of the Health Monitor we can adapt and establish priorities in the management of our public health.

The Health Monitor contains data obtained from our primary care physicians, specialists, the Hospital, from IMSAN, the University of Aruba, CBS, different official institutions, our NGO's. All the information is accumulated by the Epidemiological Section of the Department of Public Health.

Prof Dr. Ryan Peterson:



What is
'Aruba'?
Study uncovers
cultural values of
'One Happy
Island'
(pg 2)

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What is 'Aruba'?

Study uncovers cultural values of 'One Happy Island'

Aruba is an island in the Caribbean; but not just any island...

By Prof. Dr. Ryan Peterson

Branded as the 'One Happy Island', Aruba is a renowned tourism destination, famous for its sun, sand and sea. Every year thousands of tourists visit and return to our 'one happy island' to enjoy its unique flavor. When asked why they visit, tourist readily indicate the richness of our natural and social environment, which often times translates into a feeling of welcome, warmth, friendliness, hospitality, rest and relaxation.

While the concept of 'One Happy Island' has been around for some generations now, very little is known or understood about the exact nature of this happy-go-lucky island 'where happiness lives...', to paraphrase yet another slogan. To understand the intricate and implicit (untangible) nature of the 'One Happy Island', we need to shift our attention and focus from tourism and tourists towards the Aruban community, which has been and remains the pillar of Aruba's success as a tourism destination (all other factors being equal).

Whereas the question 'who is an Aruban?' (in Papiamentu: Ken ta Arubiano?) may no longer be as relevant as fifty years ago, given the multi- and cross-cultural nature and development of our small island society, the answer to what makes Aruba one happy island still remains fuzzy. More specifically, what (societal) norms, values, beliefs lie at the bottom of this 'cultural ocean' that generate this feeling of welcome, warmth, friendliness, hospi-



ality, rest and relaxation?

To answer this question, Prof. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson with the assistance of students at the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management (University of Aruba), conducted an in-depth and extensive survey of the Aruban community, in an attempt to uncover the norms, values and beliefs that generate (almost instinctively) this 'one happy island'. Based on an empirical examination of over thirty distinct values across the Aruban population, the study revealed the existence of at least four distinct clusters of values, in which two cultural values are predominantly responsible for explaining why Aruba is 'one happy island'.

Not surprising, the first dominant cultural value was identified as 'communitarianism', in which a sense of harmony and humanity are essential values for well over seventy percent of the Aruban community. Social justice, equality for everyone, and respect are fundamental factors in this socially-oriented value belief system,

which explain the notion of 'one' in one happy island. It also explains the conflict-avoidant and risk-averse nature of Aruba from a value orientation.

Akin to this value orientation are also virtues of helpfulness and openness, which explain the social experience of hospitality, rest and relaxation. Moreover, it also explains the notion of benevolence, particularly when it applies to inner circles, known in island terms as 'friends and family', which is characteristic of small(er) communities.

So what then of the 'happy-go-lucky' nature of Aruba? When asked, more than half of the Aruban community reported a feeling or emotion of happiness (or subjective state-of-mind of being happy). In terms of values, the second dominant cultural value was described as 'hedonism'.

While often associated with some sort of negative action, hedonism derives its Greek philosophical meaning from the word delight, pleasure and sensuous gratification of oneself. Thus, enjoying life and self-indulgence are primary belief systems in hedonism, which translate into the need for experiencing festivity and sensuous enjoyment (which oftentimes result in open gestures, genuine smiles and social flirtations).

The colloquial Aruba expression of 'living a good life'

(In Papiamentu: biba dushi) or the regular festive (parties, carnival, musical/artistic events, etc.) activities that Aruba hosts every week (year-round) are exemplary of the hedonistic values underlying 'happy' in one happy island. Tourists visiting and returning to the island oftentimes are engaged or at least passive observers of these festivities which translates into the 'happy' experience.

What may seem as somewhat of a contradiction in terms, Aruba's values are typical of 'hedonistic communitarianism', or more simply, a happy community that is continuously dynamically evolving, which has always been part of its cultural heritage and history, and most likely part of its unique appeal to visitors and tourists, beyond the sun, sand and sea.

Nevertheless, as the island turns towards its future development in terms of sustainability, Aruba will have to re-invigorate its passion and pleasure for life, especially

for future generations. Fundamental to a sustainable happy community are health and productivity. Without these basic assets, quality of life declines, which more than sixtyfive percent of the Aruban community regard as essential.

In addition, a happy community is unsustainable if natural environments are not preserved and conserved, and if, interestingly enough, (old) inner circles are not stretched and 'bridged' to include new blood and bold ideas and personalities (entrepreneurs). As the new saying goes: if you do what you always did, you won't get what you also got.

In more colloquial terms, and to conclude with a final Aruban saying: a great place to live is a great place to visit (in Papiamentu: "Un Aruba dushi pa biba ta un Aruba dushi pa bishita"). If Aruba is to remain a great place to visit, then it will need to remain a great place to live, today and especially tomorrow...

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The Census Office in Schoolstraat 2 will be open to the public every Saturday up until July 27th from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The services offered will be: passport and ID request and pick up; request of documents required for students; deregistration document (uitschrijving) for students going to study abroad and change of address.

This hour is especially for this busy vacation period where many persons travel abroad, students in need of certain documents and the Election Day 2013 this coming September.

To vote many people use their ID and this must be valid. Also there is a change in address it is recommended this be changed at the Census so they can receive their voting card at the correct address.

Remember to bring along a valid identification, photo and the correct amount needed for the requested documents.

Renaissance Aruba hosts international press during DJ CHUCKIE's 'closed circle' press conference

In September Aruba will host the first edition of the 'Electronic Festival', a popular project of international DJ "DJ Chuckie". After a press conference recently, organized by ATA, international press members had the opportunity to chat with "DJ Chuckie" in a closed circle at the Renaissance Aruba Resort regarding his exclusive presentation during the "Live

Life to Discover", the launch of his foundation 'Play Foundation' and his latest project 'Electric Festival'.

This session was put together in a different way where the international press was invited to have dinner with DJ Chuckie and during dinner they had the opportunity to ask questions. The international press members were invited by Renaissance



Aruba receives for the first time an official scientific Health Monitor publication

Continued from pg 1

The primary purpose of the Health Monitor is not to measure efficiency of management. Instead it is to give us data on the different aspects of our health and on all investigation relating to our public health.

What is about to happen next is all research related to the Hospital, such as on the wait time, antibiotics, quality, etc. will be included in the next Health Monitor. With this we will be able to observe the time, the progress of our island's health, accord-

ing to the Minister.

This Health Monitor will enable our professionals to work on the same wave length. Everyone involved will know where we are headed and how we intend to get there. This means that the Health Monitor will not be tied to a government, but to a structure that we will work with.

For those out there in the field, this Health Monitor will be the compass for them, according to the Minister.

Aruba Resort & Casino to cover the 'Global Day of Discovery' event which was organized simultaneously with 155 Renaissance hotels all over the world, with main attraction DJ Chuckie. During that particular day Renaissance Aruba Resort encouraged its guest to "Get out" of their hotel rooms and discover an exclusive musical performance by Rlife LIVE with DJ Chuckie.

The international press members included, Mari Campos, one of Brazil's top three bloggers, founder of the

blog Pelo Mundo with more than 20,000 visitors from around the world and regular contributor to the blog for Viagem e Turismo Magazine. Also Gabriel Dias Founder of Brazil's top travel portal, Falando de Viagem with about 65,000 visitors per month. From Holland Marloes Orj who writes for 'De Telegraaf' the largest Dutch daily morning newspaper, with a daily circulation of approximately 529,000. She also writes for the online section "filmen en uitgaan" with 7,721,700 unique visitors a

month.

Also present from USA was the editor of Elektro-Daily which will take you behind the turntables into the lives of DJs, sharing their passion for the music, giving fans an all access backstage pass. White Raver Rafting Magazine was also present together with "VIBE" magazine founded by musical producer Quincy Jones and Canadian press was represented by Daanish Garda from Neon Tape Deck- music 'blog' that presents video sections and interviews.

Revisiting Oscar winner SANDRA BULLOCK

by THE MORNING NEWS' Special Hollywood Correspondent Noel de Souza



Versatile cinematic A-lister Sandra Bullock is best known for her comedic resume of hit films. She earned her Oscar and proved her acting chops in the heartwarming 2009 film, "The Blind Side." Sandra is currently starring alongside Hollywood's hottest feminine comedic property of the moment, Melissa McCarthy, a veteran of Saturday Night Live, in "The Heat," which opened on Aruba this week. "The Heat" is a hilarious comedy in the vein of the male mismatched buddy films, such as the comedy cop opus "Tango and Cash," observed THE MORNING NEWS' Hollywood Correspondent, Noel de Souza. "Instead of Sly Stallone and Kurt Russell, insert two female characters, veteran talents bringing their own special interpretation to the mix. Sandra Bullock and the very funny Melissa McCarthy play an uptight FBI Agent and a freewheeling cop, who are at the opposite ends of the spectrum, yet forced to work together. This situation lends itself to very funny and cleverly timed comedy. I enjoyed the film so very much that I flew out from Los Angeles to New York to have a chat with Sandra Bullock. We met at a hotel looking over Central Park."

"Sandra Bullock stays far away from the Hollywood crowd as is possible, she lives in Austin Texas and still manages to have a career that she desires in Hollywood at the age of forty. She walked into the room wearing an Etro pencil dress with Bottega Veneta satrapy sandals and

looking very lovely. Her hair, which she has let grow long again, was falling straight below her shoulders."

NDS: A BUDDY MOVIE WITH TWO CHICKS, YOU RARELY SEE THAT ON FILM, SO WAS IT A CONSCIOUS DECISION ON YOUR PART TO DO THIS FILM... AND WHY?

SB: When I was producing films I always did films with strong female characters. I looked for films in which I loved the women and those kinds of films were not being done at that time, so I was in luck that what I wanted to produce was something that would break the glass ceiling a tiny bit. Now that I have a son to bring up, I have put the producing on a back burner. But nowadays things seem to be changing after "Bridesmaids" was accepted so widely. One doesn't have to fight so much to find material. Two years ago, I said I want a two-hander for women, let's go to the men's scripts that aren't being made and let's just change the names; we need people to break the ground for others to follow. So, yes it was a conscious decision to do this film and I hope there will be more to follow.

NDS: SOME OF THE ROLES THAT YOU PLAY REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF PHYSICALITY. SO HOW DO YOU KEEP IN SHAPE, DO YOU HAVE AN EXERCISE AND DIET REGIME?

SB: Stupidity has made me do those roles. But also I've been an athlete since I was a kid. So I rely on my body sometimes a lot more than it's able to execute. But I love it. I'm always training or doing some form of exercise four or five times a week. I just feel antsy if I don't. And when you have a three-year-old who runs a lot, who is hanging off of things, you better get up and do your training, so you can keep up with him. That's basically my lifestyle now. As for diet, I love food, but I eat well. The best thing to do is to have fun and be active all the time; I know that I feel better when I'm that way, and that in itself



allows me to do fun, crazy things on film.

NDS: DO YOU HAVE A CERTAIN PHILOSOPHY THAT YOU LIVE BY?

SB: Start the day loose. Don't fight every thing, it is what it is. Go with the flow, and if you don't like the accident that's happened in front of you, walk around it. Just try to stay as loose as possible.

NDS: BEING AN ACTRESS, I IMAGE MEANS EVERY THING AND CLOTHES ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN DEFINING THAT IMAGE. COULD YOU NAME FIVE FAVOURITE PIECES OF CLOTHING THAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR CLOSET? WHAT DO YOU WEAR ON AN AVERAGE DAY?

SB: My favorite pieces are ones that I don't wear on an average day. Because they're the great pieces that you go to when you want to dress up, and I love to dress up some times. I have eight pieces from Etro and they hang in the closet because it's not appropriate to wear them to drop a child off in preschool. So I open the closet and I look at them. But my favorite is jeans, t-shirt and sweater. You know, put your hair up in a bun and go to school. That's

well made things, I love couture. I love looking at the runway, going "how does McQueen constantly create art, a spectacle, a show?" - something that makes you wonder how craftsmen put it together. I love the whole world of couture and runway, but it's not applicable to life. I'm the person who will go to my closet full of clothes and shoes and have absolutely nothing to wear. Even though I have several bags with tags on them, I still have nothing to wear. I think that that's pretty much a universal problem for most women, we can never have enough black dresses, never enough cute black flats or sandals.

NDS: NOW THAT YOU HAVE A SON, CAN YOU TALK A BIT ABOUT WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE THINGS THAT MOTHERHOOD HAS AFFORDED YOU? WHAT IS YOUR DAY LIKE WHEN YOU ARE NOT WORKING?

SB: Every day is with him. Every moment is with him. Nowhere do I go unless it's a short quick trip. That's not fair to him. He's always with me. My typical day is get up at the crack of dawn, make the lunch, go to school, manage to have two hours to do something for yourself, clean something, work out, go back pick him up from school, take him to swim classes... and by then you are exhausted. And still it's the best day ever. It's just fun. You may be exhausted, but it's for a really good reason because there's no stone left unturned.



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Teen from Turkey turns bananas into plastic

WASHINGTON (AFP) - There's nothing slippery about Elif Bilgin's idea of using banana peels as a substitute for old-school petroleum-based plastics.

The 16-year-old student from Istanbul spent two years perfecting a way to make a bioplastic out of discarded banana peels that could, in turn, be used for the electrical insulation of cables.

On Thursday, her efforts paid off when Scientific American named her the winner of its \$50,000 Science in Action prize, a stepping stone to the Google Science Fair for young inventors in California this September.

In her research, Bilgin -- who says "science is my calling" -- determined that if starch and cellulose from such food waste as mango skins can be used to make bioplastics, then banana peels ought to do the trick, too.

"For me, this means that my project actually has a potential to be a solution to the increasing pollution problem caused by petroleum-based plastic," said Bilgin, who counts Nobel laureate Marie Curie among her heroes.

"It also means that I have started the process of changing the world, which makes me feel like a winner already," she added in an interview on the Scientific American's website, scientificamerican.com.

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Prince, J-Lo among Oscars Academy invitees

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US pop veteran Prince and singer-actress Jennifer Lopez are among the artists invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), the body which runs the Oscars announced Friday.

Lucy Liu, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and British actress Emily Mortimer were also among 276 new members invited to join the film indus-

try's most prestigious club, as was veteran French actress Emmanuelle Riva.

Directors invited include Benh Zeitlin, who made last year's Oscar-nominated "Beasts of the Southern Wild," and Todd Phillips, of the blockbuster "Hangover" movies, the last of which came out in May.

"These individuals are among the best filmmakers working in the industry

today," said Hawk Koch, head of the Academy, which has some 6,000 members who vote annually for the Oscars, the climax of Hollywood's awards season.

"Their talent and creativity have captured the imagination of audiences worldwide. I am proud to welcome each of them to the Academy," he added.

Other actors invited include Chris Tucker ("Silver Linings Playbook"), Rebecca

Hall ("Iron Man 3"), Sandra Oh ("Sideways"), Milla Jovovich ("Chaplin") and Jason Schwartzman ("Moonrise Kingdom").

"Purple Rain" star Prince was invited with other fellow musicians, including Ramiro Belgardt ("Star Trek Into Darkness"), Jennifer Dunnington ("The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey"), and Aaron Lael Zigman ("Sex and the City").

The new members, in categories including everything from cinematographers and producers to make-up artists and publicists, "have distinguished themselves by their contributions to theatrical motion pictures," said the Academy.

The new members will be welcomed into the Beverly Hills-based Academy at an invitation-only reception in September.

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We won't allow a coup: Egypt Brotherhood leader

CAIRO (AFP) - A senior Muslim Brotherhood leader warned opposition protesters on Friday that his movement would not allow a "coup" in Egypt, as Egypt geared up for mass rallies against Islamist President Mohamed Morsi.

"We will not allow a coup against the president," Mohamed al-Beltagui told a crowd of tens of thousands of Morsi supporters in Cairo.

Morsi, who on Sunday marks one year as Egypt's first elected civilian president following the revolt that toppled Hosni Mubarak, is facing his biggest challenge yet.

"You are not the second revolution and we are not Mubarak. We participated in the (2011) revolution," Belt-

agui said, addressing Morsi's opponents.

Beltagui's remarks came as rival rallies were held around the country, highlighting deep political divisions.

A grassroots campaign called Tamarod (Arabic for Rebellion) called for the June 30 protests to demand Morsi step down and early presidential elections.

Morsi's opponents accuse him of concentrating power in the hands of Islamists and taking Egypt back to authoritarianism.

His supporters say he derives legitimacy from his win in free elections in June last year and is successfully cleansing state institutions of decades of corruption.

Tunisian woman to be first boss of Green Climate Fund

PARIS (AFP) - Hela Cheikhrouhou, a Canadian-educated Tunisian, has been named the first executive director of the Green Climate Fund, which will spearhead funding to combat climate change, the organisation's board said this past week.

Cheikhrouhou was an investment banker at Citibank, overseeing market risk management in North Africa, before she moved to multilateral development banks, it said in a statement.

Over the last 10 years, she has worked in the World Bank's Latin America and

Caribbean region and is currently director of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change Department at the African Development Bank.

"Hela's financial expertise, coupled with her drive and enthusiasm, will help establish the Fund as an effective and credible funding facility to tackle climate change in the developing world," Zaheer Fakir, the board's co-chairman, said.

The Fund's goal is to help channel up to \$100 billion sketched in annual funding to poor, vulnerable countries by 2020, drawing on public and private sources.



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Kerry shuttle presses Mideast peace bid

JERUSALEM (AFP) - US Secretary of State John Kerry shuttled between Jerusalem and Amman on Friday as he tried to revive moribund Middle East peace negotiations, holding lengthy separate meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Kerry, who is trying to break a protracted deadlock, met Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem before and after a visit to Amman for lunch with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas.

A State Department official said that Kerry's two-and-a-half hour meeting with Abbas was "very constructive... (and) focused on the importance of moving the peace process forward".

After the Friday lunch

Kerry returned by helicopter to Jerusalem -- where he earlier had what he described as "good long" talks with Netanyahu that ended at 1:30 am (2230 GMT Thursday) -- before another meeting with him in a hotel.

At the start of that three-hour session, their second in less than 24 hours, the two men shook hands and Kerry joked "so soon".

Kerry also met Friday with Israel's nearly 90-year-old president, Shimon Peres, who praised the US secretary of state's dedication to the peace process.

"All of us admire your investment in creating really the right environment," said Peres.

"It is difficult, there are many problems.

"But as far as I'm concerned I can see how (among) people, there is a clear majority for the peace process, a two-state solution, and a great expectation that you will do it and that you can do it."

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Senior Vatican cleric arrested in fraud probe

ROME (AFP) - A senior Catholic cleric, a former spy and a financier, all accused of plotting to smuggle millions of euros into Italy on a private jet have been arrested as part of a sweeping probe of the scandal-plagued Vatican bank, prosecutors said Friday.

Nunzio Scarano, known as "monsignor" in recognition of his seniority at the Holy See, is accused of fraud and corruption for plotting to illegally fly 20 million euros (\$26 million) in cash into Italy from Switzerland.

The 61-year-old was arrested along with a former member of the secret service and a financial broker after an investigation into the Institute for Works of Religion (IOR) - as the Vatican bank is known -- raised suspicions he was involved in money laundering.

Rome prosecutor Nello Rossi said the money belonged to brothers Paolo, Cesare, and Maurizio D'Amico, who own a fleet of oil tankers, and was the "fruit of tax evasion".

Broker Giovanni Carenzio, who is also under investigation in the Canary Islands for fraud according to media reports, was safeguarding the money and was looking for a way to smuggle it into Italy.

Former agent Giovanni Maria Zito was tasked with bringing the cash in on a private jet to avoid tax and customs controls, but the deal fell through when the three men argued, Rossi said.

The jet was supposed to take the 20 million euros to Rome airport, from where it would be collected and transported to Scarano's house under armed guard, but the plan was aborted.

Zito was in any case paid 400,000 euros from Scarano's bank account, Rossi said.

Mobile telephones used by the three were later burned in a bid to destroy evidence, he added.

The arrests were the culmination of a two-year investigation into the three, the Rome prosecutors office said in a statement.

The senior cleric was suspended about a month ago from his position as a member of the administration known as APSA that manages the Vatican's assets, after his superiors learnt about an investigation into his activities, Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said.

Lombardi said Vatican authorities would cooperate willingly with the investigation but had not yet received an official request.

Scarano, who had worked for years as a senior accountant for the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See (APSA), is being held in Rome's Regina Coeli prison.

The plot was uncovered during a separate investigation into Scarano by a Salerno prosecutor for alleged money laundering.

The probe is part of a much wider enquiry launched in 2011 into the Vatican bank, which has long been tarnished by scandals, with criminals using anonymity or false names to launder money.

In a bid to tighten control of its activities, Pope Francis announced Wednesday a sweeping study of the bank before a

possible clear-out of top management at the Holy See.

In his first real step towards reform, Francis is to take a hands-on approach, ensuring that everything a special commission uncovers will be reported directly to him.

The pope, elected amid an in-house debate over whether a Vatican bank is even neces-

sary, has railed against the cult of money, calling for a "poor Church".

He has also quipped that "St Peter did not have a bank account", and warned bank and other Vatican staff that "offices are necessary but they are necessary only up to a certain point."

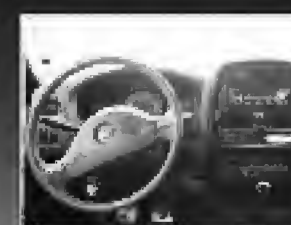


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Health & Living

Oily fish helps fight breast cancer



PARIS (AFP) - Eating a portion of tuna, salmon, sardines or other oily fish once or twice a week reduces the risk of breast cancer, according to a review published by the British Medical Journal (BMJ). Researchers based in China looked at 26 previously published studies covering more than 800,000 volunteers in the United States, Europe and Asia whose health was monitored and who gave details about their eating habits.

Oily fish is rich in so-called n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, or n-3 PUFAs, which are involved in the immune system, blood-vessel activity and chemical messaging in the brain.

The group of n-3 PUFAs has four members, known by their initials of EPA, DPA and DHA, which are mainly found in oily fish, and ALA, which is

chiefly found in nuts, seeds and leafy vegetables.

The analysis showed that women with a high intake of n-3 PUFAs had a 14-percent reduction in risk of breast cancer compared with those who had a low intake.

But the protective effect came only for fatty acids that come chiefly from fish, and not for ALA acids.

Those who showed the most benefit were women in Asia, whose diet was richer in fish than in Europe and America.

In statistical terms, every 0.1-gramme increase in fish fatty acids per day was linked to a five-percent reduction in breast cancer risk.

As a guide for daily living, this means one or two portions of oily fish per person per week.

The disease accounted for 23 percent of total cancer cases among women and 14 percent of cancer deaths in 2008, according to figures in the study.

Genetic heritage also plays a role in breast cancer, most notoriously in variants in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, although how this interacts or not with food, lifestyle and environmental factors is unclear.

HIV, syphilis rise among gay men in Bangkok

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Cases of HIV and syphilis among gay men in Bangkok are on the rise, according to data released by US and Thai health authorities on Friday.

Syphilis cases among gay men more than doubled from five percent in 2005 to 12.5 percent in 2011, said the report in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

Meanwhile, the annual prevalence of HIV also rose "significantly," from 24.5 percent in 2005 to 29.4 percent in 2011 among men who have sex with men (MSM), it said.

The data came from the Silom Community Clinic, located in a central Bangkok hospital and near entertainment venues for gay men.

The clinic was founded in 2005 by a joint collaboration between the Thailand Ministry of Public Health and the US CDC, offering free and confidential tests in an environment "receptive to the health and concerns of the MSM community."

When the team first began collecting data about HIV infections in gay men in Bangkok in 2003, the HIV prevalence was 17 percent.

By 2005 the HIV prevalence in that group had risen to 28 percent, and now it is around 30 percent, said the report.

Researchers also cautioned that patients who seek out tests and retests tend to engage in higher levels of risky behavior such as anal sex without a condom, and so the findings may be skewed upward.

Obama takes gay rights cause to Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Hours after arriving on African soil, US President Barack Obama's backing of equal gay rights came face to face with the reality of a continent that largely criminalises same-sex relationships.

The delicate subject cropped up in Senegal on Obama's first stop of a three-country tour where he told Africans that gays deserve equality under the law.

"I want the African people to just hear what I believe," said Obama, speaking in one of Africa's 38 states that outlaw homosexuality.

"My basic view is that regardless of race, regardless of religion, regardless of gender, regardless of sexual orientation, when it comes to how the law treats you... people should be treated equally."

His Senegalese counterpart Macky Sall responded that though Senegal was "very tolerant", it was "not ready yet to decriminalise homosexuality".

Obama's visit comes amid fresh warnings on discrimination faced by gays in Africa.

Amnesty International warned this week that homophobia in sub-Saharan Africa had reached "dangerous levels" with more countries pass-

ing laws criminalising same-sex relations.

It said that in the last five years, South Sudan and Burundi have introduced new laws criminalising same-sex relations, while Uganda, Liberia and Nigeria are pushing bills that would toughen existing penalties.

Even in South Africa, the only country that allows same-sex marriage, black lesbians are targeted for "corrective rape" by men trying to "cure" their homosexuality.

Other cases include two men in Zambia on trial for sodomy which carries a potential 14-year sentence, and the arrest of an activist for lobbying for gay rights on live television.

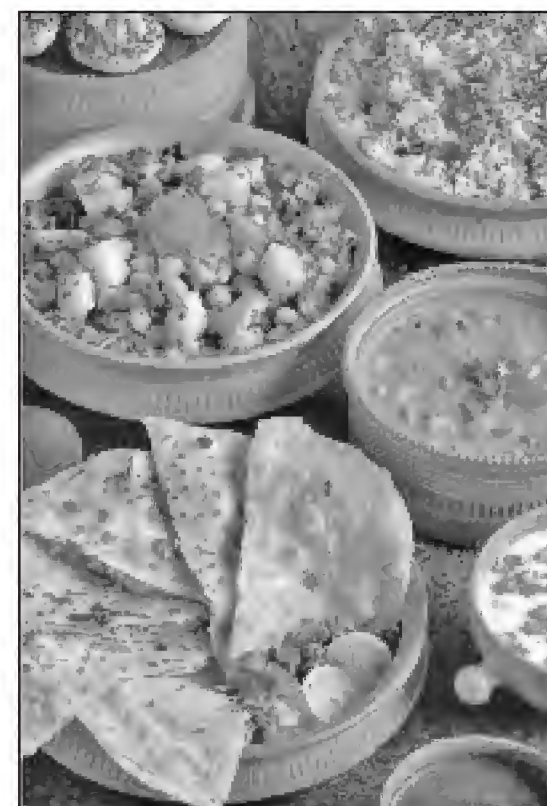
Emira Woods of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington said America's right wing churches were part of the problem in the targeting of sexual minorities in Africa.

Obama's backing of equal gay rights is also seen as aimed at voters who have been disappointed in other areas.

Ramping up its support for gay rights in 2011 with intense lobbying at the United Nations, the US also said foreign aid should be used as a tool to improve gay rights abroad.

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Sci-Tech

Thailand orders 1.2 million tablet computers for pupils

BANGKOK (AFP) - Thailand will pay \$110 million to two firms to supply 1.2 million tablet computers to schools across the country, the Education Ministry announced Friday, awarding the tender for the next phase of a controversial schools policy.

The "One Tablet Per Child" scheme, part of the government's election campaign in 2011, has been criticised as an expensive gimmick designed to boost the popularity of the ruling party among parents -- and the next generation of voters.

But to its supporters, the ambitious scheme will bridge the gap between rich and poor pupils by using technology to boost education standards in a country which measures up poorly compared to the rest of Asia.

China's Shenzhen Yitao Intelligent Control and Thai firm Supreme Distribution will provide the tablets, the Education Ministry said in a statement, as the government rolls out its plan to equip 13 million pupils

with the handheld devices by the end of next year.

"Each tablet costs between \$63 and \$93," it said adding the Chinese firm will supply 800,000 tablets to grade 1 (seven to eight-years-old), while the local company will provide more than 425,000 of the devices to seventh graders (13-years-olds).

About 850,000 Chinese-made devices have already been distributed, in what the government describes as the world's largest handout of the devices for education.

While other Asian nations fared well in the most recent global education survey by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 2009, Thailand came around 50th out of 65 countries in the rankings for reading, maths and science.

Experts say rote learning and a lack of encouragement for critical thinking compound a massive divide between rich private schools and poorly funded state-run institutions.

Discovery could boost Internet bandwidth



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A new fiber optic technology could increase Internet bandwidth capacity by sending data along light beams that twist like a tornado rather than move in a straight line, scientists said.

The discovery comes as Internet data traffic is reaching its limit amid mounting demand for bandwidth by users of smartphones and Internet-enabled devices, creating problems for network providers.

The new technology uses optical vortices, which are

like donut-shaped laser light beams. Also known as orbital angular momentum (OAM) beams, they were thought to be unstable in fiber until now.

An engineering professor at Boston University, Sidharth Ramachandran, found a way to make an optical fiber that can handle them. The technique is described in the US journal Science.

"Our discovery, of design classes in which they are stable, has profound implications for a variety of

scientific and technological fields," said Ramachandran. "Including the use of such beams for enhancing data capacity in fibers."

Researchers showed it was possible to send a huge amount of data through a one-kilometer fiber, as much as 1.6 terabits per second, or the equivalent of transmitting eight Blu-Ray DVDs every second.

Optical communication system expert and co-author Alan Willner at the University of Southern California worked with the fiber and described it as a "very unique and valuable innovation."

Other collaborators on the project were OFS-Fitel, a fiber optics company in Denmark, and Tel Aviv University.

The research was funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

OTTAWA (AFP) - BlackBerry on Friday posted an unexpected first quarter loss and disappointing sales figures for its new smartphones, sending its share price tumbling. But analysts had expected a seven cent per share profit instead of a 13 cents per share loss. The results come after the company rolled out new smartphones based on the new BlackBerry 10 platform, seen as its best hope at regaining traction after suffering staggering losses in market share in recent years. The group said it shipped 6.8 million smartphones in the quarter, 13 percent more than in last quarter. This includes 2.7 million of its new touchscreen Z10 and Q10 with a small keyboard launched earlier this year, missing analysts' targets. Its stock price as a result slumped 24.5 percent to \$10.91 in midday trade in New York. BlackBerry chief executive Thorsten Heins said in a statement he planned to boost spending on new products and services over the next three quarters. But he also warned of more losses coming in the second quarter before BlackBerry's fortunes get rosier. The company meanwhile noted that "the smartphone market remains highly competitive, making it difficult to estimate units, revenue and levels of profitability."



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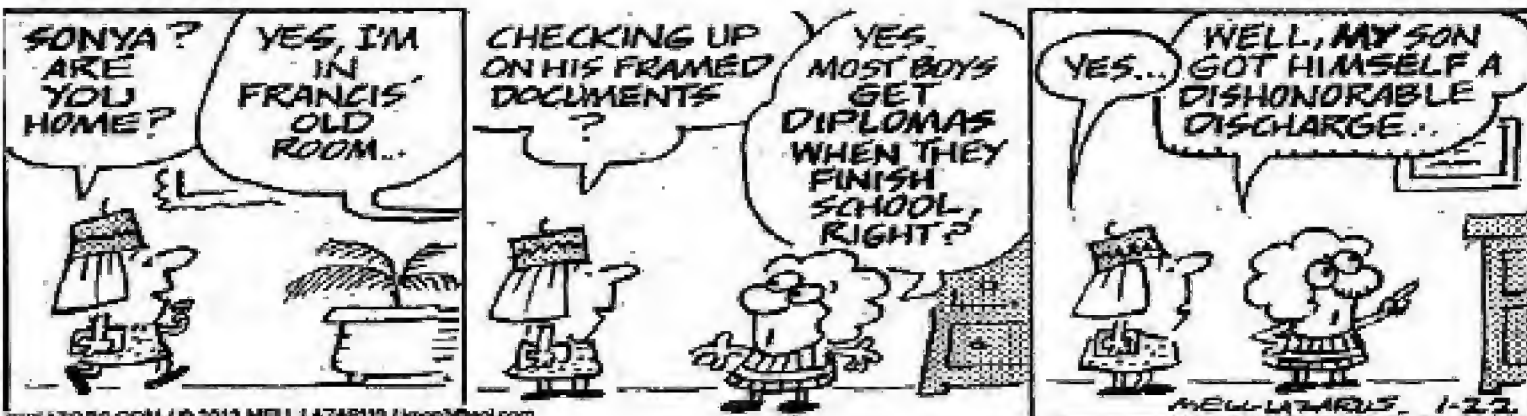
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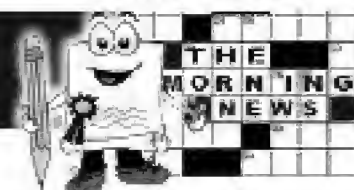
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ACROSS

1. Recline lazily
5. Mama's mate
9. Toast spread
12. Garfield's canine pal
13. Vocal
14. ___ silver platter (2 wds.)
15. Existed
16. Contrite
18. Record players (abbr.)
20. Racetracks
21. Cuplike spoon

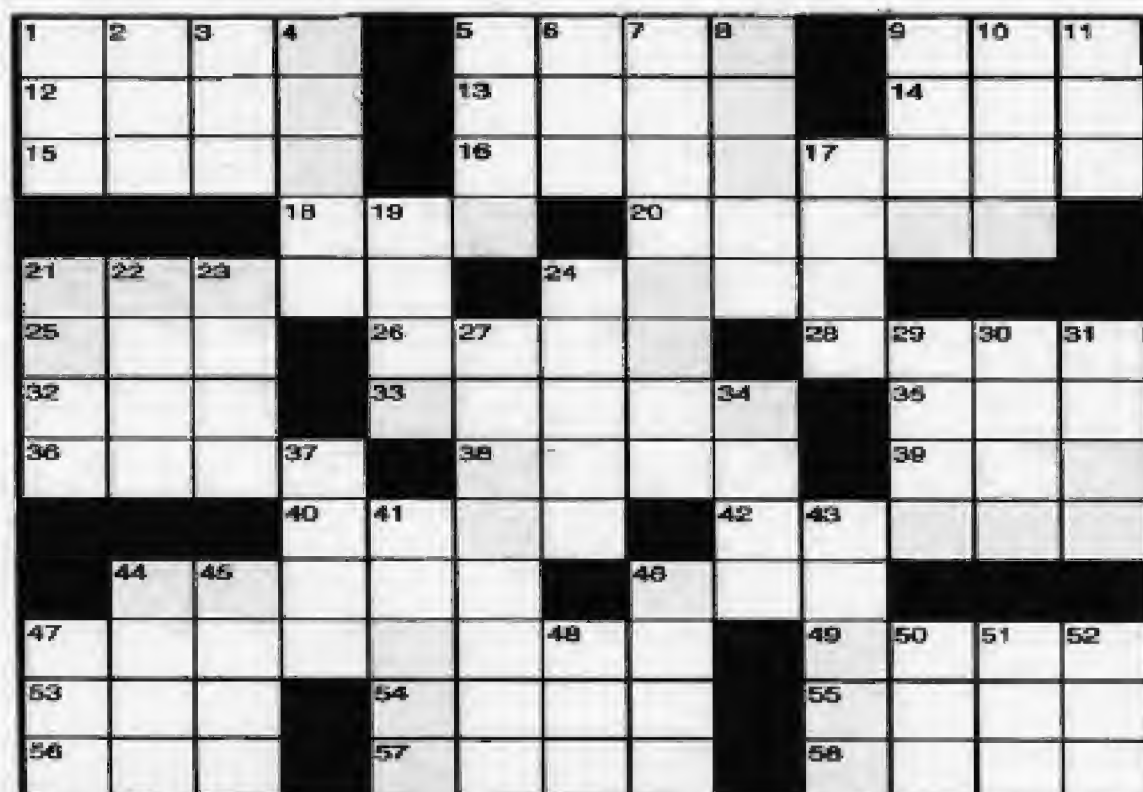
24. Brown bird
25. "Birds ___ feather..." (2 wds.)
26. Tiny insect
28. ___ of the hill
32. Fabray, to friends
33. Movies
35. Attachment
36. Oldest Brady boy
38. Look to the future
39. Pie ___ mode (2 wds.)
40. Congregate
42. Lazy sort
44. Gregorian ___
46. Middle (abbr.)
47. Midday
49. Relaxation

53. House annex
54. Holy image
55. Nuclear particle
56. Ike's inits.
57. Vaudeville performance
58. Month units

DOWN

1. Tennis hit
2. Dedicated poem
3. Swear falsely
4. Ivan of tennis
5. The Boston ___
6. Exist in the present
7. Wide-angle view
8. Animated

9. Haley ___ Osment
10. Landers and Jillian
11. "Welcome" rug
17. Guppy's home
19. "Mutt and ___"
21. Like a giraffe's neck
22. Remote
23. Copenhagen resident
24. Oil sources
27. Makeup item
29. Type of type (abbr.)
30. Egyptian river
31. Paraphernalia
34. Agitated mood
37. FBI agent (hyph.)
41. Those opposed
43. Extreme fear
44. Shivering
45. Doughnut middle
46. Dollar part
47. Author Buntline
48. Miss Piggy's word for "me"
50. One ___ time (2 wds.)
51. Vegetarian staple
52. Dorothy's aunt et al.



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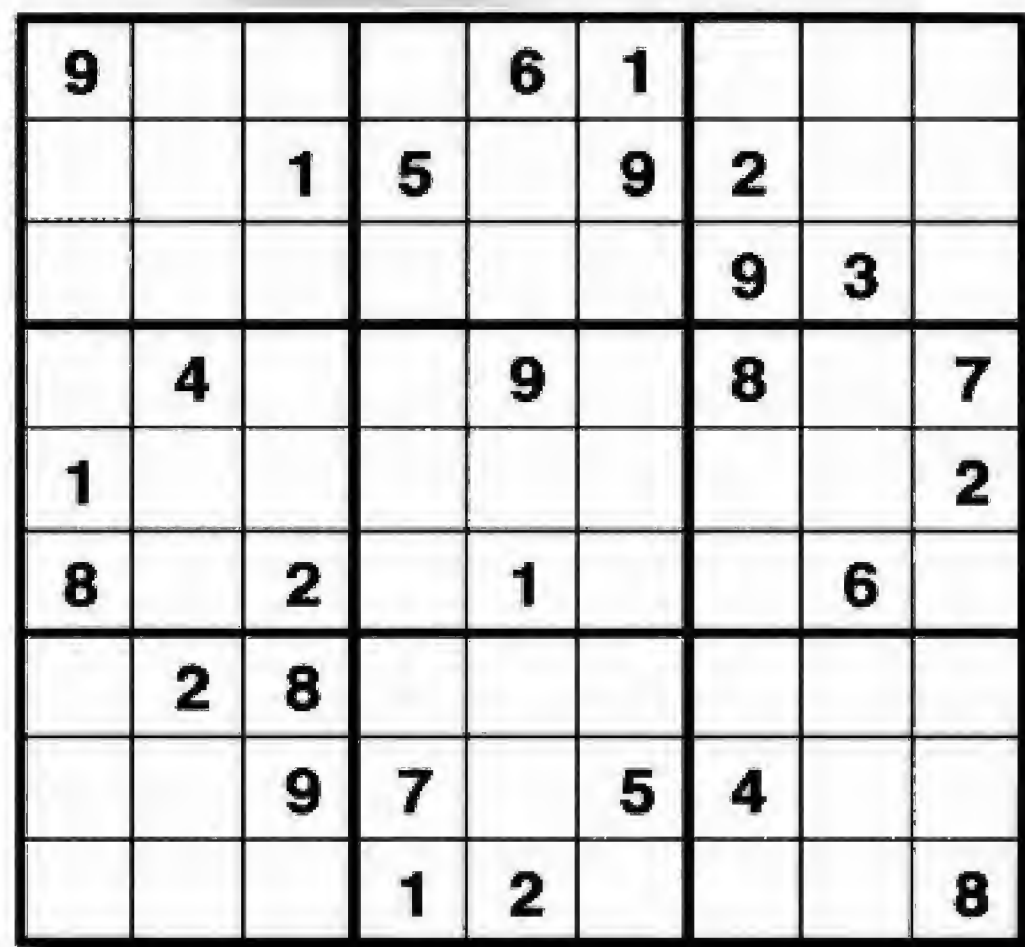
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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5	2	7	8	9	4	6	1	3
9	4	1	8	7	6	3	2	5
6	9	2	4	1	7	3	5	8
2	7	5	8	9	6	4	1	3
4	1	8	2	6	5	9	7	3
1	5	6	7	4	8	9	3	2
3	8	4	6	5	1	2	7	9
7	9	4	1	9	2	5	8	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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FINANCE

Fitch keeps US rating at AAA, outlook negative

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Ratings agency Fitch on Friday kept its AAA credit rating for the United States on a negative outlook, despite improvements in Washington's fiscal picture.

Fitch said the country still merited the top-level triple-A rating due to its "strong economic and credit fundamentals", underpinned by the US dollar's role as the world's leading reserve currency.

But the negative outlook -- which raises the chance of a near-term downgrade -- was merited due to what Fitch called "continuing uncertainty" over whether the government would act to reduce its debt over the medium and long term.

Fitch also cited near-term risks in the looming, simultaneous political battle over raising the country's debt ceiling and passing a federal budget.

It said the US economic recovery is gaining traction, helped by deleveraging in the private sector, a rebound in housing and a slow fall in unemployment.

The economy "remains more dynamic and resilient to shocks than its high-grade rating peers."

At the same time, it warned, the country remains the most heavily indebted country with an AAA credit grade.

Even if public debt has been stabilized, it said, the high debt burden "still render(s) the US economy and public finances vulnerable to adverse shocks."

"In the absence of additional spending reform and revenue measures, deficits and debt will begin to rise again at the end of the decade," Fitch said.

It said that it would review the rating by the end of the year, warning that failure to raise the debt ceiling in a timely manner -- before fresh spending cutbacks would be forced to keep up payments -- would "Likely lead to a downgrade."

The Treasury has said it can function under the current \$16.7 billion ceiling through at least the beginning of September.

Gold price slumps below \$1,200 per ounce

LONDON, June 28, 2013 (AFP) - Gold tumbled this week close to a three-year low under \$1,300 per ounce, hit by receding inflation fears, upbeat US data, a strong dollar and expectations of an end to the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing (QE) stimulus.

Other commodities experienced mixed fortunes as traders also eyed China's easing liquidity crisis and stronger global stock markets.

Markets have been spooked ever since Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke last week suggested that the US central bank could begin reducing its QE programme later this year and wind it up completely by mid-2014.

However, in a coordinated effort over the past two days, several Fed officials have stressed that markets had overreacted to last week's announcement that it could begin tapering QE later this year.

The Fed is currently pumping out \$85 billion a month into the US economy via bond purchases.

PRECIOUS METALS: Gold dived under \$1,200 on Thursday, before plunging on Friday

to \$1,180.50 per ounce -- which was the lowest level since August 3, 2010.

The precious metal -- whose twin drivers are jewellery and investment demand -- has seen its value wane recently in response to a strong greenback, which makes dollar-priced gold more expensive for buyers using rival currencies, weighing on demand.

Gold has lost a quarter of its value in the second quarter, which ends on Friday. That is the heaviest quarterly loss since the early 1970s, according to analysts at Commerzbank.

Traditionally a hedge against inflation, gold has tumbled on fears over the Fed ending its stimulus. Many investors argue that QE fuels higher inflation.

By late Friday on the London Bullion Market, the price of gold retreated to \$1,192 an ounce from \$1,295.25 a week earlier.

Silver recoiled to \$18.86 an ounce from \$19.87. On the London Platinum and Palladium Market, platinum fell to \$1,317 an ounce from \$1,395.

Tapie charged in latest twist of French corruption saga

PARIS (AFP) - Flamboyant tycoon Bernard Tapie was charged with fraud on Friday in the latest twist of a French corruption probe threatening to embroil IMF chief Christine Lagarde.

After four days of interrogation in custody, Tapie, 70, was hauled before a magistrate and placed under formal investigation on suspicion of having committed fraud as part of an organised gang.

The charge, which allowed police to use special detention powers normally reserved for suspected terrorists or mafia, relates to a 400-million-euro (\$525m) state payout Tapie received in 2008 when Lagarde was France's finance minister.

Lagarde was in charge of the arbitration process that led to the payout and investigators suspect Tapie received preferential treatment in return for his high-profile support for her boss, former President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Tapie's lawyer, Herve Temime, said the charges were completely unfounded and claimed his client was confident he would be completely

cleared.

Tapie did not appear after the decision.

The payout to Tapie related to a dispute between the businessman and partly state-owned bank Credit Lyonnais over his 1993 sale of sportswear group adidas.

Tapie claimed that Credit Lyonnais had defrauded him by intentionally undervaluing adidas at the time of the sale and that the state, as the bank's principal shareholder, should compensate him.

Lagarde was responsible for referring the issue to a three-man arbitration panel, which ruled in Tapie's favour.

Her chief of staff at the time, Stephane Richard, a member of the panel, Pierre Estoup, 36, and Jean-Francois Rocchi, have all been recently charged on the same count as Tapie.

Tapie's lawyer then, Maurice Lantourne, was also hit on Friday with the same charge.

The IMF chief, who inherited the case and the arbitration idea from her predecessor, has defended her decision as the best solution available at the time.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

S	A	L	E	O	D	D	T	S	E
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H	I	L	D		F	R	O		
E	M	E	Y	R	E		I	C	E
R	A		R	E	A	L		N	I
O	N			A	W	L	T	A	K



FRANCE, Saint-Martin-de-Belleville: A flock of goats led by herdsmen and pupils arrive at an alpine pasture yesterday in Saint-Martin-de-Belleville, French Alps, during a transhumance to summer pastures in the mountains, which was delayed by ten days due to snowing and bad weather.

No country immune from turmoil over inequality: World Bank's Kim



WASHINGTON (AFP) - No country in the world is immune from unrest arising from poverty and inequality, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim told AFP in an exclusive interview.

The protests in Brazil, Turkey, and elsewhere show that even governments who have made significant efforts already cannot let up in pro-

grams to help the poor, he said.

"There's no country in the world that is immune from having this kind of citizen's movement rise up to demand even more," he said.

"It shows that the power of civil society and the power of citizens to rise up is unlike anything we've seen in history. We saw the Arab Spring,

we're seeing it in Turkey, even in governments that have done so well in terms of paying attention to the needs of the poorest," he said.

South Korea-born American Kim, who took the lead of the World Bank one year ago, has made fighting extreme poverty the development institution's primary goal.

He cited the recent turmoil in Brazil and Turkey as examples of why governments cannot let up in their efforts to overcome inequality and boost the living standards of the poorest.

In Brazil, protests started over a hike in bus fares but quickly spread across the country as a larger movement against corruption and for a better quality of life, with demonstrators criticizing the billions of dollars the government is spending to host the football World Cup next year. "We have to recognize how

much Brazil has done for the poorest," Kim told AFP on Thursday in the Bank's Washington headquarters.

"Brazil has done a lot but there's still a lot of inequality left... Brazil really has to think hard about what it needs to do next for the next stage of economic growth."

Kim, 53 and a medical doctor, announced earlier this year an ambitious goal to reduce extreme poverty to three percent or less of the world's population by 2030.

He was adamant about setting such a challenge.

"There are still 1.2 billion people living in the world with less than \$1.25 a day, and this is a stain on our collective conscience," he said.

"I think high expectations is exactly what we should have."

For the World Bank, this means changing the way it works with both poor and mid-

dle-income countries.

"We cannot leave anyone behind. We have to think about fragile and conflict-affected areas like Mali and the entire Sahel region," he said. "That goal is going to give us the sense of urgency that we didn't have before."

Despite the turmoil, he said emerging economies have been very important for the global economy, propping up world growth while Europe contracts.

"It's important not to overreact to ups and downs in the growth numbers for countries like China and Turkey."

For instance, he said, "Turkey has done a great job in terms of distributing the benefits of economic growth over the years."

"Every country now has to sit back and think about what it needs to do to set the foundations for boosting the long-term growth."

Take a chance! Rare ABBA memorabilia up for auction in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Two rare ABBA recordings along with clogs and clippings will go under the hammer in Stockholm in August when a vast collection of memorabilia of the legendary Swedish pop group goes on sale, an auction house said Friday.

The Stockholm Auktionsverk expects the sale of the some 25,000 ABBA items on August 10 and 11 to fetch some 830,000 kronor (95,000 euros, \$123,000).

Among the rarities are two maxi singles that ABBA recorded in Swedish but never released commercially: "Hovas Vittne", made for their manager Stig Anderson's 50th birthday party in 1981, of which there exist around 200 copies; and "Saang till Goerel", a song recorded for their record company assistant Goerel Hanser's 30th birthday in 1979, of which there are only some 50 copies.

"Hovas Vittne" has an opening bid price of 25,000 kronor (2,850 euros, \$3,700), and "Saang till Goerel" 15,000 kronor.

"Those two records really stand out in the collection," auction curator Beata af Donner said. "The ABBA Collection by Thomas Nordin", the largest collection dedicated to the iconic disco group to be sold at auction, comprises objects collected since 1974 when ABBA burst onto the international scene winning the



Eurovision contest with their song "Waterloo".

Nordin, an ABBA fan who was nine at the time, has since then collected rare items and unusual merchandise from around the world, such as ABBA clogs made exclusively for the American market, rare ABBA soaps and dolls, a large collection of clippings and books, and original posters.

"He has fantastic books of ABBA clippings from 1974 until today. ABBA's entourage didn't collect all the clippings about the band back then so these are really unique, you can't get these anywhere now. Everything is in chronological order," Af Donner said.

Nordin, who says ABBA's flamboyant stage costumes inspired him to become a tailor, told newspaper Dagens Nyheter that his dream was originally to open his own ABBA museum.

"But for various reasons that

didn't happen. And it feels good to bring (the collection) to an end now, even if it feels very empty at home now, in many ways," he said.

The quartet dominated the 1970s disco scene with their costumes, kitsch dance routines and catchy melodies such as "Voulez-Vous", "Dancing Queen" and "Take a Chance on Me".

They split in 1983 and have vowed they will never reunite to sing together again.

Men go for flower power at Paris fashion



PARIS (AFP) - Menswear at Paris fashion on Friday took on a distinctly feminine feel with floral embroidery, skirts and sheer fabric at juun.j, Henrik Vibskov and Ann Demeulemeester.

Hard on the heels of Raf Simons on Wednesday, designers spurned overly masculine looks in favour of feminine silhouettes on day three of the men's collections for spring/summer 2014.

At South Korea's juun.j, models sporting lipstick and slicked down hair, wore a string of unisex designs such

as oversized sheer shirts and tiny shorts teamed with tailored jackets in white and royal blue.

Accessories included oversized loop earrings and handbag-style gold lame iPad holders.

Dries Van Noten's collection late on Thursday was all about flowers with some looks featuring no less than three different floral prints.

The Antwerp-based ready-to-wear designer, who has never offered couture, will hold a retrospective next year at Paris's Museum of Decorative Arts.

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Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

-- An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela's Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming

eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of

chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

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Nelson Mandela



Spain won't sleepwalk into final - Del Bosque



FORTALEZA (AFP) - Spain coach Vicente del Bosque said fatigue would be no excuse for failure in the Confederations Cup final against Brazil after his side edged a gruelling semi-final with Italy on penalties in Fortaleza.

Thursday's game, played amid stifling humidity, saw Spain prevail 7-6 in a shoot-out after 120 energy-sapping minutes failed to yield a goal, with substitute Jesus Navas netting the decisive spot-kick.

Brazil will benefit from an extra day's rest prior to Sun-

day's final at Rio de Janeiro's fabled Maracana, having beaten Uruguay 2-1 on Wednesday, but Del Bosque said he had no concerns about the uneven turnaround.

"I'm not looking for excuses," said Del Bosque, who has already led Spain to glory at the 2010 World Cup and the 2012 European Championship.

"It shouldn't be an excuse. It's a different match. We have 72 hours, others have a bit more, but we want to put on a good show.

Midfielder Juan Mata, a second-half substitute, said Spain's efforts had left them "physically diminished", and captain Iker Casillas admitted that Cesare Prandelli's side had asked them searching questions.

"They put a system in place that really complicated things for us," said the Real Madrid goalkeeper, who was voted man of the match.

Leonardo Bonucci was the

only player to miss a penalty in the shoot-out, the Juventus centre-back hoisting his shot high over the bar and presenting Navas with an opportunity to send Spain into the final.

It was a symbolic outcome, as Spain's dominance of world and European football was sparked by a shoot-out victory over Italy in Vienna in the quarter-finals of Euro 2008.

Looking back over Spain's five-year reign at the summit of the world game, Casillas paid tribute to a detailed coaching set-up that recently yielded success for Spain at the Under-21 European Championship.

"Almost all the players have played in the youth teams and been world and European champions, and this has come together in the national team.

"And from (Luis) Aragones to Del Bosque, the (national team) coaches have told us to play football in a special way -- a way that had been forgotten in Spain.

Neymar ready for historic Maracana tussle with Spain

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazilian star Neymar vowed on Friday to help fire Brazil to a third straight Confederations Cup title at the expense of world champions Spain to show fans they can expect fireworks when he arrives in La Liga with Barcelona.

"We will be playing for our families, our friends, but above all for the Brazilian nation.

"We are ready for what will be an historic match," the 21-year-old starlet said as he looked forward to a mouthwatering encounter with the Spanish on Sunday in Rio's Maracana stadium.

Spain, who have never won the Confederations event, will go into action on the back of a record 29 matches unbeaten and seeking an unprecedented fourth consecutive victory in a major tournament after Euro 2008 and 2012 triumphs sandwiched their maiden World Cup success in 2010.

Brazil meanwhile came into the tournament having dumped former coach Mano Menezes for 2002 World Cup-



winning handler Luiz Felipe Scolari, despite the latter enduring some less than stellar recent spells in club football with Chelsea and Palmeiras.

Since Scolari's return, the auriverde have slowly begun to shape a team based on a blend of youthful exuberance encapsulated by the likes of Neymar himself and the experience of older players such as Fred, whose three goals, following a run of five in six friendlies, have fired up the new machine.

"This will be a real final showcasing great players. It

should be a great game and I just hope I come off happy and a champion with my team," said Neymar, who added he was not afraid of the close attention the Spanish defence will undoubtedly seek to shackle him with.

Brazil are desperate to showcase the giant nation at this event as well as the World Cup, amid an ongoing battle to revamp sagging infrastructure and sometimes chaotic public services.

Since before the event started on June 15, more than 1.5 million Brazilians have been out in the streets in more than 100 cities protesting at the vast bill of some 15 billion dollars to host the two football jamborees, angry that the government has put money into that rather than health, education and transport.

A recent poll indicated two-thirds of citizens back the World Cup but the protests have continued and President Dilma Rousseff has been forced to promise wide-ranging institutional reform.

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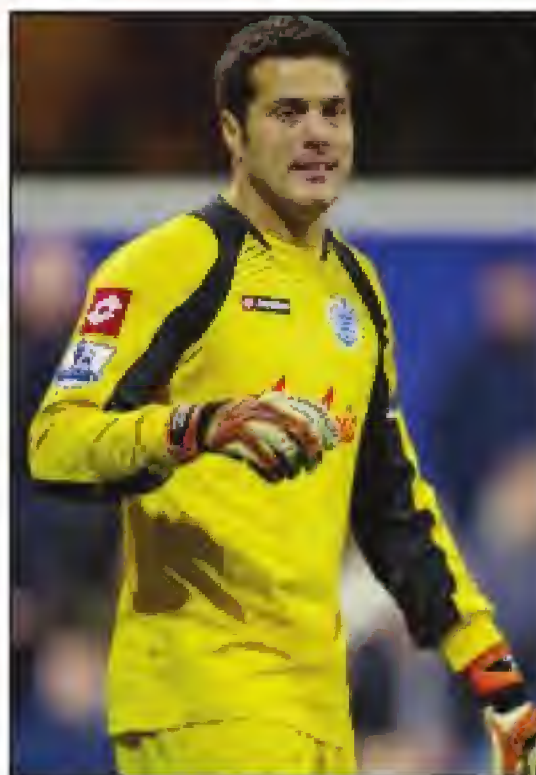
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SPORTS

Julio Cesar ready for Confeds conquest



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - After being one of the main fall guys for a disappointing 2010 World Cup, goalkeeper Julio Cesar is back in Brazil's good books for playing a major part in the Selecao's march to the Confederations Cup final.

The oldest player in a squad comparatively lacking experience as coach Luiz Felipe Scolari builds a team to lift the World Cup next year on home soil, the 33-year-old came to this event hot after suffering the indignity of relegation from the English Premier league with Queen's Park Rangers.

That fate was not quite the way the veteran shot-stopper from Duque de Caxias had expected to prepare for his end-of-season World Cup dress rehearsal.

But he has risen to hero status after his penalty save in Wednesday's semi-final win over Uruguay provided the springboard for a gutsy, if slightly fortuitous, victory at the Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte.

His stop from Diego Forlan's spotkick drew praise even in the immediate aftermath of what was a crushing blow for Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez, who swallowed his frustration

to note that Cesar "has again shown what a great keeper he is".

Julio Cesar's career has had its ups and downs ever since he made his debut for Flamengo 16 seasons ago.

An under-17 world champion in 1997 who made his full debut for Brazil in 2004, winning the Copa America - with a penalty shootout save against Argentina.

And though he generally played second fiddle to Dida, he swiftly came to the attention of Inter Milan, who initially farmed him out to Chievo on loan.

But he was back within months to oust Francesco Toldo as first choice at San Siro and after helping his country win the 2009 Confederations Cup, his club career hit the ultimate high with Inter's victory in the Champions League in 2010.

Yet weeks later he was deemed to be at fault for a Wesley Sneijder goal in a World Cup quarter-final loss to Holland and after Mano Menezes replaced Dunga at the helm he lost his place.

His exile ended earlier this year after Scolari replaced Menezes and he has re-established himself as number one between the posts.

Of his save against Uruguay, Julio Cesar, closing in steadily on the 100 caps mark, said he had simply done his homework and that he knew Forlan would fire his penalty to his left.

Julio Cesar has managed to throw off his recent travails both with QPR and with Brazil and is now one match away from a third international crown.

But he will hope his real crowning glory will come in 12 months' time as Brazil target what they really want more than anything: A sixth World Cup.



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Formula One: Rosberg fastest in practice, worried about race

SILVERSTONE (AFP) - Nico Rosberg topped the times for Mercedes in Friday's second free practice session ahead of this weekend's British Grand Prix -- and then warned he may lack the race pace to win Sunday's showdown.

The German, who celebrated his 28th birthday on Thursday, clocked a best lap of one minute and 32.248 seconds in improving drying conditions after a rainswept morning.

That time was enough to lift the Monaco Grand Prix victor almost three-tenths of a second clear of nearest rival Mark Webber of Red Bull.



"The afternoon went well," Rosberg said. "On one lap I think the car is still quick, as we have seen in the last few months, so qualifying should be OK."

While Rosberg reflected on his chances of securing a second win this season, Australian Webber showed all the grit and commitment that has earned him four successive podium finishes at Silverstone and put him within reach of a hat-trick of British wins in five years.

After making public on Thursday his decision to leave Formula One and move to sportscar racing with Porsche next year, Webber appeared to drive with great freedom and purpose on one of his favourite tracks.

His Red Bull team-mate defending triple world champion Sebastian Vettel, who only learned of his team-mate's decision after arriving at the track on Thursday, was third-quickest ahead of Britons Paul Di Resta of Force India and Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes.

Hamilton remained a hot home favourite to fight for pole and victory this weekend despite Mercedes' problems with balance and set-up.

Daniel Ricciardo, tipped to be a contender for Webber's

seat in 2014, was sixth in the leading Toro Rosso ahead of his team-mate Jean-Eric Vergne, another Red Bull possible.

Adrian Sutil was eighth in the second Force India ahead of Romain Grosjean in the leading Lotus.

Two-time champion Fernando Alonso of Ferrari was down in 10th place while his team-mate Felipe Massa wound up 22nd and slowest after suffering a crash only 25 minutes into the 90-minute session.

Jenson Button, the 2009 world champion who has never finished better than fourth in his home race in 13 years, was 11th for McLaren, two places better than 2007 champion Kimi Raikkonen of Lotus, tipped as favourite to succeed Webber alongside Vettel next year.

After a cold and rainswept morning, which saw few cars clocking timed laps in opening practice, the afternoon was warmer and mostly drier with the air temperature hovering around 18 degrees.

The opening period saw most cars testing the conditions with intermediate wet tyres before switching over to mediums as a dry line emerged and encouraged faster times.

Motorcycling: Lorenzo still hopes to race despite injury

ASSEN (AFP) - World champion Jorge Lorenzo is hoping to defy the odds and ride in Saturday's Dutch MotoGP, barely 24 hours after undergoing surgery on a broken collarbone, his Yamaha team said on Friday.

The Spaniard, who underwent an operation in Barcelona early Friday morning after a high-speed crash in practice on Thursday, returned to the Assen circuit and fully intends to ride if he is passed fit by doctors.

The rules state that a rider can compete in a race 24 hours after being given an anaesthetic, and Lorenzo has still not been officially withdrawn from the race, so the door remains open for him.

But he will have to convince doctors that he is in a fit condition to ride early on Saturday morning before the day's warm-up laps.

Lorenzo crashed at high speed in rain-hit practice on



Thursday, fracturing his left collarbone, and underwent surgery successfully before flying back to Assen.

His surprise return to the circuit indicated he might try to compete in the race after all, mindful of the narrow seven-point gap between him and championship leader Dani Pedrosa.

Even though he skipped qualifying, Lorenzo's best time in practice before his accident would allow him to start in 12th place on the grid.

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Tennis: Murray cruises, Stakhovsky crashes at Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) - Andy Murray kept his campaign to become Britain's first Wimbledon champion since 1936 comfortably on course Friday but Sergiy Stakhovsky, the shock conqueror of Roger Federer, crashed out.

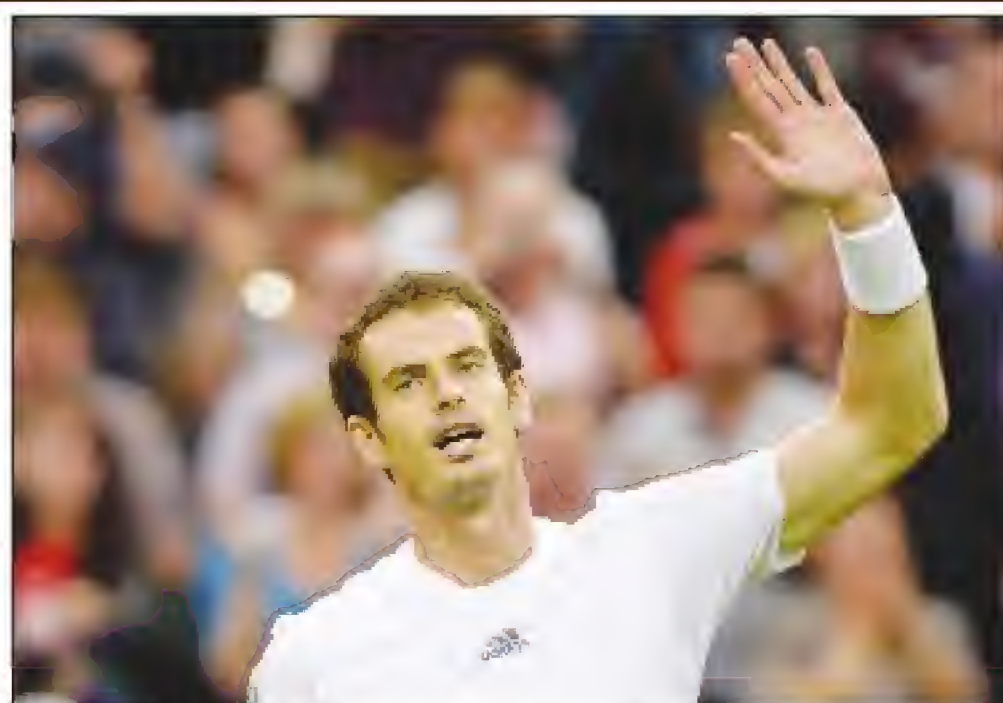
Murray, the second seed, breezed past Spanish veteran Tommy Robredo, the 32nd seed, 6-2, 6-4, 7-5.

The US Open champion goes on to tackle either Russian 20th seed Mikhail Youzhny, now the highest-ranked player left in his half of the draw, or Serbia's Viktor Troicki for a place in the quarter-finals.

Murray, playing beneath the comfort of the Centre Court roof, fired 40 winners and nine aces past the 31-year-old Robredo.

Stakhovsky, the world number 116, who sent seven-time champion Federer crashing out in the second round, went down 6-2, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 to experienced Austrian Jurgen Melzer.

Instead of the Centre Court, where he had ended Federer's



run of 36 successive quarter-final appearances at the majors, Stakhovsky was exiled to Court Three where his challenge wasn't helped by falling heavily on the slippery surface.

That required his ankle to be strapped and his challenge petered out as 32-year-old Melzer reached the fourth round for the second time where he will meet dangerous Pole, Jerzy Janowicz.

The 24th-seeded Janowicz made the fourth round for the first time by beating Spanish 15th seed Nicolas Almagro, 7-

6 (8/6), 6-3, 6-4.

Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer reached the third round with a 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 win over compatriot Roberto Bautista Agut in match held over from Thursday because of rain.

Heavy rain delayed play on the outside courts with Bulgarian 29th seed Grigor Dimitrov staging a temporary sit-down protest to register his anger at conditions on Court Three before he lost a five-set, second round thriller.

Dimitrov, watched by super-

star girlfriend Maria Sharapova, who was knocked out on Wednesday, went out 3-6, 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 6-4, 11-9 to Slovenia's Grega Zemlja.

When the tie resumed following Thursday's suspension, 22-year-old Dimitrov slipped and fell in his service action at 8-9 in the final set to give up the third match point of the tie.

He then stomped off to the sidelines and sat in his court-side chair for 10 minutes waiting for the conditions to improve.

But it didn't change Dimitrov's luck as Zemlja took victory on a sixth match point.

Zemlja, the first Slovenian to make the third round at Wimbledon, goes on to face Argentina's eighth seed Juan Martin del Potro for a place in the last 16.

Britain's Laura Robson reached the third round of the women's singles with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Colombian qualifier Mariana Duque-Marino and next meets Marina Erakovic of New Zealand.

Kaia Kanepi of Estonia, a quarter-finalist in 2010,

knocked out German seventh seed, Angelique Kerber, who made the semi-finals last year, 3-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-3.

The bottom half of the women's draw has also been thrown open after world number two Victoria Azarenka withdrew with a knee injury and world number three, Sharapova slumped to a shock defeat against Portuguese qualifier Michelle Larcher De Brito.

The highest-ranked player left in that section is the 2011 champion Petra Kvitova, seeded eighth, who was trailing Ekaterina Makarova, the Russian 25th seed, 2-1 in the final set of their third round clash when play was suspended due to darkness.

Larcher De Brito was unable to capitalise on her win over Sharapova as she lost 7-5, 6-2 to Italy's world number 104 Karin Knapp.

Knapp will face France's 2007 runner-up Marion Bartoli who put out Italy's Camila Giorgi, 6-4, 7-5.